

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
WALTON-LE-DALE,
For the Year 1895.

Preston :

Printed by C. W. WHITEHEAD, 125, Fishergate, and Avenham Street Mill.

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THE
Medical Officer's Report
FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of presenting you with an Annual Report for the year 1895. I have endeavoured to enter more fully into statistics, bearing on the Divisions of the Township containing the greatest centres of population; about such reports there must be a very great sameness from year to year, and statistics are not usually very interesting.

It is at all times a difficult matter to form a correct estimate of the population. Since the Census Returns of 1891, I think you will agree with me the population has increased, but how to correctly ascertain that increase is my difficulty. Several methods have been suggested for such calculations, all more or less fallacious, the only one to be relied on being that obtained by enquiry from house to house, this, of course, I could not do, but I have adopted the following plan: I have taken the natural increase in the population for the past four years, namely 561, and deducted a third from it, 187, as a migration allowance, and added the remainder 374 to the Census Returns 1891, giving an estimated population of 10,930, which I believe to be very close on the number. On these figures I have made my returns.

During the year 333 Births and 227 Deaths were recorded, showing a natural increase of Births over Deaths of 106; this is the smallest natural increase by 32 for the past five years. Of the Births, 175 are males and 158 females. Of the deaths, 116 were males and 111 females, giving a Birth-rate for the year in each thousand of the population of 30·46, and a Death-rate of 20·76.

The Birth-rates for the past five years are as follows :—In 1891, 32·20; in 1892, 34·29; in 1893, 35·14; in 1894, 30·50; and in the past year, 30·46. The Death-rates for the past five years: In 1891, 25·57; in 1892, 20·08; in 1893, 20·84; in 1894, 15·91; and in 1895, 20·76.

The Death-rate does not show any improvement for the past year, and literally none for the past five. As in previous years the mortality is kept up by the Infantile-rate, 102 deaths having occurred under five years old, or almost fifty per cent. of all the deaths. This cannot be attributed to any special forms of disease except Diarrhoea and Chest Diseases, from which there were 17 deaths each. In former reports I mentioned some of the difficulties that stand in the way of bringing an Infant to mature years; few of these have been removed. These difficulties are due in a great measure, to use the words of Dr. Meadows, “to the prejudices, neglect and ignorance of Nurses and Parents,” and to these dangers of Infantile existence I would add the baneful habit of out-nursing when Infants are fed on all manner of farinaceous foods, in many instances highly injurious to the child’s digestive organs, and in not a few attended with the most dire results. As this report may possibly fall into the hands of some Mothers, I would add for their information that farinaceous food should never be given to an Infant under four months, that if given the Infant’s stomach is perfectly incapable of effecting the chemical change necessary to convert it into food that can be assimilated, and if it be not digested it is liable to set up Gastro Intestinal Catarrh.

Seventy deaths took place under one year old, thirty-two one year and under five, eleven five and under fifteen, ten fifteen and under twenty-five, fifty-one twenty-five and under sixty-five, fifty-three sixty-five and upwards. It may interest some to know the greatest ages attained, two died at eighty years, one eighty-two, one eighty-three, one eighty-four, four eighty-five, one eighty-six, and one ninety-two.

There were 38 deaths from the following Zymotic Diseases :—Scarlatina three, Croup three, Typhoid Fever three, Measles six, Whooping Cough two, and Diarrhœa nineteen, giving a Death-rate of 3·47 in each thousand of the population, or 16·74 per cent. of the total deaths. This is a heavy Mortality, and has been run up by the deaths from Diarrhœa and Measles; twenty-three out of a total of twenty-five deaths from these diseases occurred under five years old; of the two remaining one died at sixty-five years, the other at sixty-nine.

Two of the deaths from Scarlatina occurred in School Lane, one in Bamber Bridge. One of the deaths from Diphtheria occurred in Bamber Bridge, the other in Penwortham. One from Croup in Higher Walton, and two in School Lane. From Typhoid Fever one death occurred in Walton-le-Dale, one in Higher Walton, and one in the Infectious Hospital. One of the deaths from Measles in School lane, and five in Bamber Bridge. One death from Whooping Cough occurred in Higher Walton, the other in School Lane. Six of the deaths from Diarrhœa occurred in Walton-le-Dale, two in Higher Walton, one in School Lane, and ten in Bamber Bridge. From this statement you will have seen that eighteen of the deaths from these diseases occurred in Bamber Bridge, a much heavier proportion to this centre of population than it should have unfortunately been obliged to suffer. This, in my opinion, is due to the very defective system of sewage disposal with which this locality has been contending for many years. The soil has become saturated to such an extent that even after the new

Sewers have come into operation, a very considerable time must elapse before this evil can be overcome. When this change has taken place, I think we may with confidence look for a steady decline in the rate of Mortality from these diseases in this portion of the Township.

It is hardly necessary to go into the other Zymotic Diseases, as they are numerically small and not confined to any particular portion of the District.

While going through the Death Returns my attention was attracted by the large number of deaths attributed to Tuberculosis of one form or another, and more especially to those occurring during Infancy. For instance, Tubercular Meningitis, Tabes Mesenterica, and if I add to this Phthisis, there were in all 25 or 11·01 in each hundred of the deaths. It would be an interesting problem to determine how many of these cases are due to hereditary influence, and how many to the causes which interfere with the nutrition and development of the child, such as insufficient food, impure air, cold and damp atmosphere, and the supposed danger of infection from the consumption of milk secreted by cows suffering from Tuberculosis. Of the latter source of infection I cannot speak with any degree of certainty. It is, however, a most striking fact that the two first named diseases are almost wholly confined to childhood, the period of life when most milk is being consumed as an article of food.

When on this subject of milk, I should like to mention how desirable it would be that well-constructed dairies should be added to those farm buildings not already provided with them where the business of kitting is carried on; in my opinion they should not be under the same roof with the dwelling-house; they should be detached buildings, and so constructed that thorough cleansing could be effected, and yet at the same time an equable temperature be maintained. The pernicious habit of collecting milk during the winter months in the kitchens of

farm houses should be prohibited; such milk in the case of an outbreak of Scarlatina, Diphtheria or Typhoid Fever would be almost certain to absorb the poison and transmit it to outsiders. If the isolation of the dairies I have recommended could be carried out, the farmers would be saved the loss which at present arises when an outbreak of infectious disease occurs in their dwellings, compelling them to throw away this milk should they have neither calves nor pigs to consume it.

The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were light, only 42 in all, or 18·50 per cent.

During the year, under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889, there were certified 11 cases of Diphtheria, 5 of Erysipelas, 51 of Scarlatina, 13 of Typhoid Fever, making in all 80 cases. Two of the Diphtheria cases occurred at a farm house in Hennel Lane, one at Higher Walton, six at Bamber Bridge, one at School Lane, and one at Penwortham. Thirty-six Scarlatina cases occurred at Bamber Bridge, and fifteen at School Lane. Two Typhoid Fever cases occurred in Higher Walton, ten in Bamber Bridge, and one in Walton-le-Dale. Two of Erysipelas in Higher Walton, and three in Bamber Bridge. Bamber Bridge stands out as the great centre of infection, supplying fifty-five cases out of a total of 80.

Six infectious cases were admitted into the Infectious Disease Hospital, five of Scarlatina, and one of Typhoid Fever. They were under treatment for 133 days, at a cost to the Council of £18, or an expenditure of 2s. 8½d. a day.

In the month of January I inspected and reported to the Council on the Sanitary condition of the house occupied by Mr. J. Wilcock, Bamber Bridge, and advised what steps should be taken in the matter.

During the month of March the Township suffered severely from an epidemic of Influenza. One death was attributed to it

in the month of April. A large number of those affected by it were thoroughly prostrated for several days, and all suffered more or less from Pulmonary complications. The Township does not appear to have ever become quite clear from it since its first appearance some six years ago, at most unexpected times isolated cases kept cropping up.

By your instructions, in the month of April I inspected the mills known as the Lostock Hall Spinning Co. and Walker, Moss, & Co., and reported on the closet supply. In the first-mentioned mill I did not think it necessary to make any alteration. In that of Walker, Moss, & Co., I advised that four more closets should be provided.

In the month of May, on receipt of the notice of the outbreak of Diphtheria at the Farmhouse at Hennel Lane, I at once made an inspection as to the etiology of the disease, and came to the conclusion that in all probability it was due to a bad water supply, obtained from a shallow well in one of the fields to which the cattle had free access; this defect I had pointed out to the Council on the 20th December, 1894. Since then a deep well was sunk, but the water from it is not satisfactory, and has been condemned by your Analyst as unfit for drinking.

In the month of May I visited and reported to the Council on the nuisance caused by a knackers yard at Old Penwortham Hall. I advised that it should be closed, as in no one way was it adapted for such a line of business. I subsequently attended before the magistrates to give evidence, if necessary.

In the month of June, Measles appeared in Bamber Bridge, School Lane, and Higher Walton. The disease had not quite disappeared at the end of the year. For the first three months it was of a severe type, but gradually modified in virulence towards the end of the year.

July was ushered in by an outbreak of Scarlatina in Bamber Bridge, which very soon spread to School Lane. In these "localities" the disease of a mild form continued till the end of the year, without showing any tendency to spread to the other populous portions of the township. This is rather to be wondered at, when you take into account the number of mill hands that work at factories in these localities, and reside in other parts of the District.

In the month of September the maximum of infectious cases was reached, eighteen having been notified. In my report for the month I mentioned that the Scarlatina was of a very mild form, the patients speedily recovered from it. A complaint was made to me that children who had suffered from infectious disease were allowed to return to school before the stage of infection had passed, and that healthy children were sent to school from infected homes; to obviate this, I advised that leaflets should be printed and distributed by the Teachers and Nuisance Inspector, informing parents and guardians the length of time that must elapse after an attack of Scarlatina or other Infectious Disease, before a child can with safety resume school attendance.

In the early part of November we experienced cold, harsh weather, which ran up the deaths from chest diseases from three in the previous month to thirteen. In this month I brought under your notice the sanitary defects of the Pear Tree Inn, at School Lane end.

The month of December passed away showing an appreciable improvement in the list of infectious cases, the deaths from chest diseases again coming down to three, as in the month of October.

Infectious localities I have visited on the first intimation of disease, and taken the necessary precautions to prevent its

dissemination. In all instances ample disinfectants have been supplied, all bedding and clothing treated in the hot air chamber, and the bedrooms fumigated.

The bakehouses, with one exception, have been kept clean and in good order; the owner of the one in default was served with notice to abate a smoke nuisance. The slaughter houses are well kept, and were found at all times most satisfactory.

Under the Nuisance Inspector's directions the following sanitary work has been carried out:—21,102 pails were emptied, 4,154 ashpits cleared, 34 defective closets and ashpits put into thorough repair, 11 defective drains made good, the owners of four farms were served with notice to provide a pure and sufficient water supply for their dairies and cowsheds, one farm was supplied with the town's water for the use of cattle, &c., seventeen persons were served with notice to abate nuisances, one knackers yard was closed, thirty-two houses were fumigated, and thirty-three parcels of bedding and clothing were treated in the hot-air chamber, at a sufficiently high temperature to destroy all microbes.

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. TRIMBLE, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

*The Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council,
24th February, 1896.*

NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

- NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*
2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*
3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*
4. The "*Localities*" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Work-houses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.*

**Area and Population of the
District or Division to which
this Return relates.**

Area in Acres, 4682a. 3r. 1p.

Population (1891), 10,556.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

ROBT. TRIMBLE, Medical Officer of Health.

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,
coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Walton-le-Dale
Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (See Note 2 on back of sheet.)	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5:	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.			Fever.						Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT..	10556	10931	333	*	..	51	11	13

* I have no means of knowing the ages, they are not on the Certificates. Membranous Croup is not one of the Diseases to be certified.

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—1893. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.—The Bradkirk Hospital. It was formerly a Farm-house in the District.

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

- NOTE 1. The present *Table B* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.
2. As stated in the heading of Col. (a), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmarys, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.
3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*

TABLE (C.)

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

**Summary of Medical Officer's Report
FOR 1895.**

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE.

Area in Statute Acres, 4,682, 3r. 1p.

Population (Census) 1891, 10,556.

Population, Estimated 1895, 10,930.

Name of Medical Officer of Health : Robert Trimble,

SALARY, £50.

Births registered : Male, 175 ; Female, 158 ; Total, 333.

Deaths registered : Male, 116 ; Female, 111 ; Total, 227.

Birth-rate : 30·46. Death-rate : 20·76. Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births, 210·21. Death-rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, per 1,000 of population, 3·47.

Diseases prevalent : Measles and Scarlatina. Period : June to end of year.

What Action taken ? The usual Disinfectant.

What is the Character of the Hospital Accommodation ? Eight Beds, Cottage. Is it Joint or otherwise ? No. No. of Beds ? Eight. What were the cases treated ? One Typhoid Fever, five Scarlatina. Deaths in Hospital ? One. From what Cause ? Typhoid Fever.

How is Disinfection carried out ? Fumigation. Apparatus used ? Hot-air Chamber.

Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force ? Yes.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable ? No.

SUMMARY—CONTINUED.

What is the character of House Accommodation?	Cottages Houses.
Has any action been taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890"?	All houses to be kept in good order.
Water Supply	District Council. Deep Well.
Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily?	Yes, fairly.
By Sanitary Authority or Contract?	By Contract.
How is the Refuse disposed of?	Used as manure.
What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal?	Sewage Works almost completed.
Canal Boats	Occasionally one with manure. Only a few yards of Canal in Township.
What is the condition of the Bakehouses?	Good order.
Slaughter Houses	Clean and in good order.
Lodging Houses. Are they Registered?	None.
Are the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops periodically inspected? Have any Regulations been made by your authority under the Authority of the Local Government Board?... ..	Yes.

SUMMARY—CONTINUED.

Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what results?	Yes, mentioned in Annual Report.								
Can you express any opinion as to the effect of Factory Labour on the Operatives? ...	They are of poor physique.								
Sale of Food and Drugs Act	<table> <tr> <td>No. of Samples purchased</td><td>None.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Prosecutions</td><td></td></tr> </table>	No. of Samples purchased	None.	Prosecutions					
No. of Samples purchased	None.								
Prosecutions									
Food unfit for Human Consumption. Amount seized?	None.								
River Pollution	Sewage.								
Any Special Report of Medical Officer of Health during the year? ...	One on the Knackers yard at Penwortham Old Hall.								
Department of Inspectors of Nuisances	<table> <tr> <td>No. of Notices served</td><td rowspan="2">Mentioned in Report.</td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.</td></tr> </table>	No. of Notices served	Mentioned in Report.	No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.					
No. of Notices served	Mentioned in Report.								
No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.									
Smoke	<table> <tr> <td>Do you suffer from this form of Nuisance.</td><td>I do not know that any complaints have been made.</td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of Observations.</td><td>None.</td></tr> <tr> <td>No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.</td><td>Do.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works.</td><td>About twelve.</td></tr> </table>	Do you suffer from this form of Nuisance.	I do not know that any complaints have been made.	No. of Observations.	None.	No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.	Do.	Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works.	About twelve.
Do you suffer from this form of Nuisance.	I do not know that any complaints have been made.								
No. of Observations.	None.								
No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result.	Do.								
Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works.	About twelve.								
Has the Authority adopted									
(a) "The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890?"	Yes.								
(b) "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890?"	Yes.								



